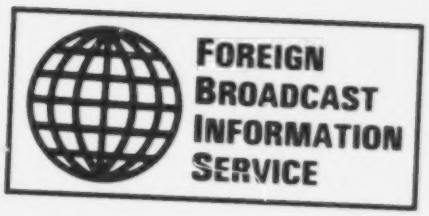

Daily Report

Latin America

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Wednesday
10 August 1988

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FBIS-LAT-88-154 *10 August 1988*

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Cuba

'Joint Step' Toward Peace in Africa Hailed

PA1008033888 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Station commentary read by Urbino Amaya]

[Text] As a result of the progress made in the preceding meetings in London, Cairo, and New York, the round of quadripartite talks that recently ended in Geneva turned out to be detailed, positive, and productive, as is noted in the joint declaration.

In an unprecedented joint step toward peace in southwest Africa, the delegations of Angola, Cuba, and South Africa agreed to recommend to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that implementation of Security Council Resolution 435 on the independence of Namibia be initiated on 1 November. This is undoubtedly a significant advance in the search for a fair and lasting settlement in the area. If an agreement in this regard is reached, it has been primarily a result of Angola's and Cuba's commitment to peace and their interest in viewing the situation in southern Africa with seriousness and political realism.

South Africa, pressured by a difficult internal situation, the Cuban-Angolan offensive in the military sphere, and the demands of the international community, has been obliged to go to the negotiating table. However, even though these meetings have their rules, Pretoria violated those rules and caused a difficult situation only a few days ago, by publishing the South African proposal before Cuba and Angola had responded to it.

This type of behavior, which emphasizes the racist authorities' lack of ethics, provoked a vigorous protest from Cuba and the conviction, among political analysts, that South Africa could again unexpectedly commit another act of this type.

Nevertheless, the racist authorities have been obliged to comply with a longstanding UN demand: implementation of Resolution 435 on the independence of Namibia, a demand that Pretoria has always resoundingly rejected.

With the approval of practical measures designed to generate confidence, reduce the risk of a military confrontation, and create the necessary conditions in the region to conclude the negotiations, a cease-fire has actually now been implemented and, according to the document, will become noticeable in the weeks to come.

Angola and Cuba, for their part, showed their good will by reiterating their determination to sign a bilateral agreement that will include a timetable acceptable to all parties for the total withdrawal of Cuban internationalist troops from Angola in phases. It would seem as if all the conditions are right for the next round of high-level talks to give definitive impetus to the negotiating process.

Castro Visits Ecuador for Borja's Inauguration

For Havana and Quito reportage on the official visit to Ecuador by Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, for the inauguration of Ecuadoran President-Elect Rodrigo Borja, including his arrival statement, see the Ecuador subdivision of the South America division of the 10 August Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Castro Reportedly To Meet With Arias in Ecuador

FL0908200788 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] The Costa Rican media highlighted today's arrival of our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro to Ecuador. It also stated that it believed there are favorable conditions for a Latin American minisummit that would be conducive to peace in Central America.

The newspapers LA NACION and LA REPUBLICA indicated that the Cuban leader arrived early this morning in the Ecuadoran capital to participate in the ceremonies transferring power to President-Elect Rodrigo Borja. The Costa Rican publications emphasized that political figures from Argentina, Venezuela, Uruguay, Colombia, Portugal, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua will attend the transfer of power.

Meanwhile, Radio Monumental gave an overview of Borja's ascent to the presidency. It also noted that for the first time in his 2 years of office President Oscar Arias will meet with our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and with other world leaders.

Risquet Holds Talks With PRC Official

FL0908150788 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Jorge Risquet, member of the PCC Politburo, has received Li Beihai, secretary general [as heard] of the Department of International Liaison of the Chinese Communist Party. The two officials exchanged information on the international situation, the internal processes in their respective countries, and the scope for developing bilateral relations.

Crombet Returns From Communist Parties Meeting

FL0908151588 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Jaime Crombet, member of the Secretariat of the PCC Central Committee, has returned to Havana. Crombet participated in the third meeting of communist parties of South America in Montevideo, Uruguay.

American Arab Group To Meet in Havana 22-24 Sep
FL0508011788 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] The eighth congress of the Federation of Arab Organizations of America will meet in Havana's Palace of Conventions from 22 to 24 September. This was reported to our newsroom by (Alfredo Deriche), president of the Arab Union of Cuba [as heard].

The head of the Arab federation said that the executive committee of the Federation of Arab Organizations of America will meet in Santiago, Chile, from 19 to 21 August to define and stress the topics that will be discussed in the Havana congress. The event will be attended by more than 400 delegates and guests from 20 countries of the American continent.

Emergency Plan Implemented at Eastern Ports
FL0808124888 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] The eastern provinces are currently carrying out an emergency plan for unloading merchandise at the port of Santiago to improve the congestion situation, especially as regards containers.

The respective transportation enterprises have made available as many railway services and vehicles as possible for port activities, whi. internal economy organizations have facilitated unloading operations in their warehouses for greater rotation of the equipment available.

Guillermon Moncada port currently has 3,600 containers, which presents a compromising situation and hinders the quick dispatch of merchandise because unloading becomes difficult. Two cargo and general merchandise ships have been in port longer than scheduled. Nevertheless, the port has more than 32,000 tons of merchandise between patios [as heard] and warehouses. The most outstanding among this merchandise is the 15,480 tons of metal destined for Las Tunas Province, and it is urgently necessary that it be removed from here.

If the internal economy acts in time and urgently, as required in this eastern territory, unloading will become easier and will eliminate demurrage charges for some ships which greatly affect the country's economy.

Havana Congestion 'Critical'
FL0908153688 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] The situation in the port of Havana continues to be critical due to the amount of merchandise in its areas and warehouses. More than 110,000 tons of merchandise have now accumulated there.

Transportation limitations continue to be among the principal causes of the congestion at these units this month. Nevertheless, Havana Bay has recently increased its equipment park with the addition of trucks which began working last week. However, the situation has not noticeably improved.

The port of Havana ended July with more than 117,000 tons of merchandise and it has one of the most critical situations, along with the ports of Santiago de Cuba, Mariel, Cienfuegos, and Nuevitas.

Haiti

Namphy Returns to Capital After Tour of South
FL0908173688 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The big news, as everyone knows, is that Lieutenant General Henri Namphy, president of the military government, and the other prominent figures who were with him, returned to Port-au-Prince yesterday afternoon after a tour of southern Haiti lasting some 4 days. [passage omitted]

On his return, Lt Gen Namphy found that triumphal arches had been put up to welcome him back at Carrefour and 4th and 5th Avenues Bolosse. Gen Namphy left Les Cayes at around 1515.

In Carrefour, well before arriving at the National Palace, the president found himself in a terrific carnival atmosphere, with Coupe Cloue [popular Haitian singer] performing. [passage omitted]

At precisely 1754, the president of the military government received military honors from the palace band and was greeted by the Haitian Armed Forces high command as well. [passage omitted]

Pro-Namphy Demonstration in North Reported
FL0908183988 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] On Friday, 5 August, the population of Grande Riviere du Nord and city hall organized a fourth demonstration in favor of the government and of General Henri Namphy.

Officials from Cap Haitien, Milot, and Baron and representatives from eight communal sections of Grande Riviere du North were present at the demonstration. The people chanted a series of slogans in favor of the president of the military government, Lt Gen Henri Namphy.

Further on Expulsion of Canadian Priest

FL0908214088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Yesterday evening we talked to Father Rene Poirier, the former Grand Goave parish priest whom the military government expelled from Haiti last Friday. Father Poirier told us the details of what happened. He said that on Friday afternoon, six military men entered the presbytery in quite a bad mood and declared: We have come to pick you up at the orders of the country's highest authority.

The priest answered: Where is your mandate? I will not leave the presbytery without seeing a mandate. They informed him that he was going, mandate or no mandate. In view of the priest's refusal, they sent for the town magistrate. They did not know the name of the priest they led from the presbytery. As they did this, they said something to him, something that it is important to highlight: Boy, are you lucky that we are not doing this to you at night! Most of these military men were old-timers who have apparently been on the scene since the time of Francois Duvalier.

Meanwhile, many residents of Grand Goave assembled, as if there were a big funeral going on. One of the military even said in the car on the way to Port-au-Prince from Grand Goave: We don't trust the young military men.

They went directly to the Dessalines Barracks in Port-au-Prince, where Captain Gelin, who is responsible for the district of Petit Goave and who was also in the vehicle, picked up the phone to announce to his boss: Mission accomplished. Then another military man asked Father Poirier for his passport. The priest said that given the way they took him at the presbytery, he had had no chance to take anything at all with him. The same military man told him he had an airline ticket. The priest answered that no, thank you, he did not intend to travel. He asked that they call the father superior of the Viatorian Fathers, the archbishop of Port-au-Prince, and the Canadian Embassy. They categorically refused. Then they quickly took him to the airport.

Father Poirier was wondering what he had done, for he knows that all he was doing in Grand Goave was working on a few small projects for the good of the poor. He had also denounced certain injustices. All of this is part of his job as a priest.

At the Port-au-Prince airport, Father Poirier spoke and also sang with some people who were present at that time, before the military chased everyone off. As they led the priest to the plane, they shoved him in the back with their rifles. Before getting on the plane, he asked for permission to kiss the soil of Haiti. They permitted him to do this. Then they shoved Father Poirier on the plane, for personally it was not his intention to leave like that.

Father Poirier thinks that the main reason the authorities did this to him is the problem he had at Sainte Anne chapel at the end of July with the area section chief, who wanted the priest to provide him with an explanation of the service he was holding in that chapel, which is a 6-hour ride on horseback from the center of the parish. The section chief had asked the priest to give him a report on the activity. What time had the service begun? Who was there? How many people? What are their names? What had the priest done? The priest had answered: Ask the public, because even for my church, I do not have to make a report.

The priest had been obliged to ask the section chief and the men with him: if they were macoutes. They had answered that they were baptized Christians. The priest had said: Duvalier, too, was baptized and had taken communion, etc. Thus, Father Poirier thinks that this was the first problem. Add to this the injustices he denounced, where they make the poor pay 38 gourdes for something that should cost 19 gourdes.

The invitation the priest reportedly received to go and welcome the general on Friday, 5 August, in Grand Goave, and which he declined, might be one of the causes. But the priest is certain that the decision to expel him had already been made.

We will listen to an excerpt of what Father Rene told us yesterday evening:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] There is something else people in Grand Goave are saying is the reason. They say you were invited to welcome the general and that you didn't....

[Poirier, interrupting] Yes, it's true. I was invited to go and receive the general, but (?they) don't have time for that kind of thing. The thing had to be organized in advance, you see? They invited me, and I answered them. I said: I'm sorry that I will not be not be able to attend the celebration, this arrival. I take this opportunity to... [changes thought] I even said: You know that at this (?phase), I will not be able to. I am telling you the truth, at this (?phase). But thank you.

I take this opportunity to ask the municipal council of Grand Goave to help the residents of Grand Goave escape from their extreme poverty as soon as possible: the chronic unemployment, the hunger that is everywhere, the lack of health care at the hospital, which has no medicine. We have no secondary school. The population of Grand Goave and the chapels numbers some 50,000 people, according to CARE figures. The marketplace is in the dust. The women vendors are forced to sit out in the sun. [Words indistinct] they have.

I said further: We don't even have a decent little road. The taxes are always going up and food prices are always rising. That's the kind of thing I said—all those things. [Words indistinct] and I had sent that but they didn't

have time for that. It was prepared in advance, you know. The thing is more linked to the [words indistinct] thing than in Grand Goave.

[Reporter] Father Poirier, what are the consequences of this on the parish of Grand Goave, on the people helping you in the parish?

[Poirier] I think they were afraid for me, but they know that I am for the poor and that I will defend the poor with all the qualities and talents that God has given me. I will do that incessantly.

[Reporter] How do you feel about leaving the parish under such conditions, after working in it for 2 years?

[Poirier] I am totally heartbroken. [passage indistinct] I love those people very much. I am also afraid for the people who work with me.

[Reporter] They speak of the good work you were doing in the parish. That means a foundation has already been laid. Do you think there is a possibility that the work will continue even if you aren't there?

[Poirier] I certainly hope so. We had begun a small grass-roots parish, in just one place, because it is not easy. So there was only one place that had started and had done a lot of work. We had built a small road with people (?from Valu), who live together. We had done everything we could [word indistinct]. We had built a road a few kilometers up the hill, a nice road. You can visit it, if you like. It is the Saint Martin road to (Desnoye). It is a road that climbs up Morne Tapion. Also, we had held a peasants convention last year. We had always done some teaching—songs, nice songs, teaching of the liturgy, and catechism. We had done all these kinds of things. I don't know how this is going to continue. I don't know if the Viatorian Fathers are going to remain in the area. I don't know anything about that. I am very sorry not to be there. I don't understand why they expelled me, because, really, there are other priests who are more outspoken and who (?have) a greater audience than myself. I am just a minor priest who has never given anybody or any radio or television station an interview in Haiti. So I don't understand at all why they did this.

I really don't understand. But there is a little Creole proverb that gives me a lot of strength: God's pencil has no eraser on it. That means that God never makes mistakes and therefore needs no eraser. [end recording]

We must say that right after Father Poirier left Grand Goave, the population, which was most agitated, immediately met the next day, Saturday, to form a committee of solidarity with Father Poirier. This committee tried to demonstrate on that same Saturday, but the military dispersed the demonstration. The following day, Sunday, they met at the parish church and held a beautiful ceremony. There again, they tried to demonstrate in solidarity with Father Poirier but it again didn't work. During the ceremony, they wrote a petition, which already had 356 signatures on Sunday.

Parishoners Write Bishops

FL0908211888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] The faithful of Grand Goave parish have addressed a letter to the bishops. They say: We are writing to inform you of the heavy-handed act committed by the macoute Army against Father Rene Poirier, the parish priest, on 5 August. But before giving you details, we wish to give you some background on the parish's situation.

The faithful say: Grand Goave parish has 5 chapels, 7 small grass roots churches, and 54,000 inhabitants. Many of the inhabitants are ignorant, hungry [words indistinct] and unemployed; they suffer injustices at the hands of a small minority in all kinds of ways.

After the departure of Father (Cherel Joseph), the former parish priest, we went without a parish priest for 9 months. After many initiatives, we finally got Father Rene on 20 December 1986. Since then, this priest has been working together with us to spread the word of deliverance everywhere and to denounce injustices, abuses, repression, and all the rest. This has caused a headache for all the enemies of change, progress, and democracy. These people then swore they had to put an end to this and began to threaten us. We can give you a few examples.

On 27 November, they came at us in vehicles as we marched in a procession.

After the aborted 29 November elections, they labeled us communists.

On the eve of the 17 January elections, they forced everyone to flee, but our faith in Jesus Christ helped us confront all these trials and tribulations courageously and the battle continued.

On 31 July, the parish priest was heavily pressured by a section chief during a visit to Sainte Anne chapel on the occasion of the patron saint's day.

On Thursday, 4 August, the parish priest received a letter of invitation from the communal committee of Grand Goave to welcome General Namphy, who was passing through on his way to the south.

On Thursday, 5 August, the parish priest answered the magistrate, thanking him for the invitation and informing him that he would not be able to participate.

That same day, shortly after the general passed at around 1600, seven military men in a beige and red Rocky jeep, license No K-2102, showed up at the presbytery and

arrested Father Rene on the pretext that they were taking him to be interrogated. We had no news of him from that time on until the military's television announced that the bigshots had expelled him from Haiti.

We, the faithful of Grand Goave parish, denounce this heavy-handed act. The country's enemy did it with the intention of establishing ignorance, darkness, injustice, and repression forevermore. In order to thwart that maneuver, we, the faithful of Grand Goave parish, have decided to mobilize on the following points:

We ask—we demand—that the church leaders return Father Rene to us before the parish festival.

We ask—we demand—that the church remain open, so that we can manifest our faith in Jesus Christ at this difficult moment.

We ask—we demand—that brother (Luke Denomme), a clergyman who was working with Father Rene in the parish, remain here until Father Rene returns.

We are counting on the solidarity of all the other parishes throughout Haiti. We are asking you members of the bishops conference, of the clergymen's conference, of the order of Viatorian Fathers, and of the Canadian Embassy to do everything you can to satisfy the demands of the faithful of Grand Goave parish.

While awaiting the steps you take, we salute you in the name of God, the only Lord; of Jesus Christ, our big brother; and of the Holy Spirit, which guides us.

Youth Group Comments

FL0908223088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The Christian Student Youth [Jenes Etidyan Kretien—JEK] has issued a press release asking the leaders of the church to shoulder their responsibilities. JEK says in its press release that in the proclamation by the military government on the day of the coup d'etat, the government said that it would respect all the international agreements already signed by Haiti. [passage omitted]

The note says: We the JEK of Petit Goave are wondering if the government has begun respecting international agreements by exiling Rene Poirier. Or was it that Father Poirier was not willing to get on the train under the conductor's conditions?

The note says: Thus, we, the JEK of Petit Goave, are asking the leaders of the church what they have to say about this, because we know that when a finger of the hand is attacked, the whole hand is under attack.

We ask the church leaders to make their position on this matter known quickly and to find a solution to the problem of the young in Grand Goave. All together, we constitute an avalanche.

That, then, was the reaction of JEK to the expulsion of the Rev Father Poirier from Grand Goave.

Ministry Issues Communique

FL0908153788 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] We have learned that the archbishop of Port-au-Prince sent a delegation to Grand Goave after the military government expelled from Haiti a Canadian priest who worked in Grand Goave. This is what we heard over a radio station in the capital.

The 54-year-old Father Rene Poirier, a member of the order of the Viatorian Fathers who had been serving in Grand Goave for the past 2 years, was expelled by the military government last Friday.

According to a communique from the Ministry of Information, the authorities accuse the priest of making a most improper statement, an insulting public statement, a statement that could compromise the social and political order in Haiti.

Apparently the priest also had problems with a section chief regarding the program of a religious service over which he presided recently and also the people attending it. The church has entrusted a 4-member delegation with analyzing the situation in the parish following the government's expulsion from Haiti of the Canadian priest.

The radio station in question says that last Saturday the local authorities dispersed a demonstration organized in Grand Goave to protest the expulsion of the priest (?and that) meetings to reflect upon this matter were forbidden.

The Canadian Foreign Ministry has declared that it was shocked by the expulsion of the priest.

'Persecution' Forces Missionaries To Leave

FL0908223988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] A team of Methodist missionaries who work with the most underprivileged in Grand Goave in the sphere of health have had to hasten to leave the area because of persecution by area authorities. Here is our correspondent from Petit Goave.

[Correspondent] Over the weekend, some 30 American missionaries who have been working in the first plain of Petit Goave gathered up all their belongings and left the area. Among the missionaries were doctors and nurses who were providing health care in the area. They were working for the Free Methodist Church, whose headquarters is in (Carrefour Marron) in Petit Goave.

We sought to interview one of the missionaries. He told us he would make no statements because he would like to stay and work in Haiti. He said if we wanted to know something, we should try to interview Haitians.

We interviewed people from that area, who told us that the Haitian Government did nothing for the peasants, but that anytime anyone wanted to help them, the section chiefs and assistant section chiefs caused these people problems, demanding to see an authorization from the Haitian Government to work in the area. This is Max A. Metellus, Radio Soleil, Petit Goave.

Church Youth Symposium Held in Jeremie

FL0608125288 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Excerpts] This week in the Grande Anse, the parish of Jeremie organized a meeting with the young people to discuss the church and the Virgin Mary, in preparation for the closing of the Marian year in the diocese of Jeremie. Our correspondent in the Grande Anse will give us details.

[Correspondentt] [Passage omitted] The symposium, the theme of which was "the Church, the Virgin Mary, and Youth", was heavily attended last Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. People came to listen, participate, and say what they thought about things. This allowed many people to see what the church is like, what it is doing, and what the Virgin Mary represents within the Catholic Church. It also showed how the church sees Haitian youth, and what the young people think of the church, which according to what was said is a church of communion and struggle.

Many of the young people attending said they considered Haiti hopeless, a case without a remedy.

Others felt that only solidary action against the forces of death and repression would allow the country to catch its breath from beneath the claws of the enemies of the people.

For the priests, the church is a church of love and charity, because that is what God asks; therefore, the church cannot encourage, nor share, any idea of taking up arms. However, they are aware that the country must be cleaned up, because there are too many bouquets of filth blossoming in Haiti.

At the closing ceremony, at which Fathers (Max Pierre-Louis), (Jean Antoine), and (Juliard Monaci) spoke and [words indistinct], they spoke of the darkness Haiti is in—a darkness made up of corruption, repression, and people who buy and sell consciences, and where there are many demons worse than the demons that fly about at night, because, said Father (Juliard Monaci), these demons are against progress, against [words indistinct] and against life. Thus, the church has much work to do in that domain. [passage omitted]

Literacy Group Discusses Activities, Problems

FL0808212988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Yesterday Alfa Tambour, which is a cultural association for adult literacy composed mainly of young students, such as primary and secondary school students, and other people of good will celebrated its 2d anniversary at St Joseph Church in downtown Port-au-Prince. The organization has now been working at teaching people to read and write for 2 years.

Alfa Tambour does not just want to teach people to read and write. It wants to carry out other activities related to adult literacy, such as encouraging educational reform in Haiti; encouraging the use of the Haitian people's language; contributing to helping the Haitian people's culture find its true place in our society; putting out a newspaper; writing plays, books, and songs; opening adult literacy centers in schools and faculties in cooperation with the responsible institutions; and so forth. However, despite all its attempts to get help—whether from the Ministry of Education, the IPN [National Pedagogical Institute], or other sectors—Alfa Tambour has never received an answer. What have they managed to accomplish over the last 2 years?

[Begin speaker recording] Since we have limited means, we are still just at the level of the paper. The reason we stopped it for a while is that the situation was not too clear. We are going recommence it soon.

This has shown us how in Haiti no youth initiative is ever appreciated. It is as if only the old should do everything, and as if only they are capable of doing anything.

Since before February 1986, when they [not further identified] spoke of adult literacy, we harbored the hope that the people would really come to see clearly. And the Haitian people were firmly determined to see clearly. That is why all over Haiti many, many people came forth ready to participate in the adult literacy campaign. However, when the bigshots of every ilk and every color saw that the light was really going to blind them, they did everything they could to put it out. Thus, they stuck all kinds of labels on the literacy program to discourage the teachers, the teacher-trainers, and the participants. They said all these people were communists, as if only the communists can make people see clearly, can teach people to demand their rights.

Also, there are many authorities working on behalf of a phony adult literacy program, (?a biased) adult literacy program, as if adult literacy were of necessity a religious action. If a given religion feels that adult literacy activities are of necessity religious activities, why are there a bunch of parishes, a bunch of religious communities, and even dioceses that are still beating around the bush and refusing to get involved in it?

This means that not all religions think that adult literacy is of necessity a religious action. It is a humane action. It is something that all good-hearted people might do. It is civic action that all Haitians should collaborate in, regardless of their religion, their ideology, their political choice, or their beliefs. It is every Haitian's right and duty to participate in this. [end recording]

If adult literacy can bring change, why wouldn't those who are against change not work to thwart it? In its message, Alfa Tambour acknowledges that the times we are living in now require a greater effort in the area of adult literacy, which has become a big necessity, because the enemies of change are scoring points.

Alfa Tambour feels that those who are thinking about adult literacy should have pity on the people and set aside all quarrels among themselves in order to set up a national adult literacy program that the people can take seriously. In their message, Alfa Tambour also touches on the education the government offers the children of the masses. It did not fail to denounce all the vile currents that are smothering Haitian culture.

[Begin second speaker recording] If an educational system trains the nation's children for life elsewhere, is it not providing a spurious education? Doesn't the education provided by an educational system based on corruption—which educates people crazily and teaches them to ransack the state coffers—constitute a macoute education? Isn't an educational system geared especially to urban people, when we live in a country where most of the population lives in the hills, an education of apartheid or of favoritism? We live in a country where almost 80 percent of the people can't read. They live off manual labor. Yet manual labor is given zero status in Haiti. Isn't an educational system sick when it turns out a series of intellectuals who can only parrot others?

The reason for a reform of the educational system in Haiti is a political one. As long as there is not a political will to change things in Haiti, a reform of the educational system will never be possible in Haiti.

As for the culture, we are living at a time when we can see that we are being invaded by overseas cultures, to say nothing of many products, such as second-hand clothes, turkey legs, chicken wings, and so forth. What's worse, the radios, television, and the movies are all being used to do away with the Haitian people's realities. At the same time, the media imposes on the Haitian people a number of realities that do not concern or affect them in order to avoid disturbing their minds.

This is a well-planned, well-controlled piece of work. Beware, because the people doing this know full well where they want to lead us.

We feel that the language spoken by an entire people, one that is a cohesive force in society, is a fundamental part of that people's culture. That is why the first thing all colonialists who want to turn a people into dependent flunkies do is to force those people to forget their mother tongue so that they can better exploit them. This is how we can understand that there are colonialists who come from abroad—and also native-born colonialists—who would not like to see the Creole language used in the schools and the universities. And we take this opportunity to ask the Ministry of Education what is it that it is still waiting for to generalize teaching in Creole in all primary schools in Haiti? [end recording]

St Lucia

Labor Party Sacks Senator Micheal Pilgrim

FL0908033488 Bridgetown CANA in English 1853 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Aug 8, CANA—The opposition St Lucia Labour Party [SLP] has sacked Senator Michael Pilgrim, accusing the former head of government of failing to show an interest in promoting the work of the party.

Dr Pilgrim was appointed to the senate following the April 1987 double general elections in which the SLP came close to unseating the United Workers Party, under Prime Minister John Compton.

Usually reliable sources said that the senator received a letter last week from party leader Julian Hunte, telling him that the governor general had been informed that he would no longer be one of the SLP nominees to the senate. Pilgrim is replaced in the senate by chairman of the SLP, Thomas Walcott, who was on Monday sworn in at Government House by acting governor general, Vincent Floissac.

When the SLP took power in 1979 Pilgrim was made minister of state in the prime minister's office responsible for finance. After the strife-torn SLP government fell in January 1982, he was chosen as prime minister of an interim government that was to take the country into fresh elections.

Trinidad and Tobago

New Party Formation To Be Decided in October

FL0908032488 Bridgetown CANA in English 1501 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Aug 8, CANA—Dissident members of Trinidad and Tobago's ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) will decide at an October meeting whether to form their own political party, according to former junior finance minister, Trevor Sudama.

Sudama, one of four dismissed cabinet ministers who have banded together with supporters and called themselves Club 88, said they will hold an October 16 mass

meeting in San Juan, along Trinidad's east-west corridor to seek a mandate on the way forward. The meeting will take place one week before the NAR holds its annual conference October 23.

If Club 88 decides to remain a caucus within the ruling party, political analysts say it is likely they would mobilise to "rock the boat" at the convention, challenging the leadership of Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson whose term as political leader is up for renewal early next year.

Sudama told CANA Monday, however, that Club 88 might find October 16 too late to effectively challenge the NAR leadership at the party's conference—something he said members would need to take into account when they make their decision. If the decision goes the other way, Sudama said Club 88 would then be faced with the job of mobilising support, drafting a constitution, and setting the groundwork for becoming a new political party.

Sudama, regarded as a key strategist in Club 88, said the feeling so far from the group's meeting was that they should break away from the NAR.

"We can not stay in this state indefinitely," Sudama told CANA.

The foursome, dropped from the cabinet in November 1987 and February 1988 reshuffles, are on suspension from party activity pending action by the NAR's disciplinary committee. Sudama complained that it was not known when the status of the four would change, since they had received a list of charges and no further word on disciplinary action. "At this moment, we are a caucus and enjoy no rights within the NAR," he said.

Prime Minster Robinson—the target of much of the Club 88 criticisms—on Sunday took a swipe at his Club 88 opponents.

Talking about the challenge his NAR had faced in December 1986 when it brought about the first change in government in 30 years, Robinson said some had been "stultified" at the challenge. Their brains were just fossilised," he told members of the NAR national council at a special session at which Panday supporters were absent. Others had been...steeped in particular ways and thoughts and had become habituated in particular modes of behavior," Robinson said in an apparent reference to Panday, who had been opposition leader for many years before joining up with the ANR.

The NAR was formed in February 1986 from the merger of four parties including Robinson's Tobago-based Democratic Action Congress (DAC), Panday's then parliamentary opposition United Labour Front (ULF), and the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) and the Tapia movement.

El Salvador

Castillo on Presidents Meeting, Duarte Health

PA1008000988 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Report by Roxana Lemus on statements by Acting Salvadoran President Rodolfo Castillo Claramount; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Showing its unwillingness to let the Esquipulas II agreements perish, today the Salvadoran Government agreed to a meeting of area presidents called for by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias. The meeting is to take place at the end of August in our country, but will depend on the willingness of the other governments, warned Acting President Antonio Castillo Claramount.

The meeting will clash with U.S. Government interests—Secretary of State George Shultz will pass through the area to modify the position of certain governments and create a joint bloc to isolate Nicaragua.

[Castillo] "We believe the presidents should now sit down, review, and analyze the whole business of compliance or noncompliance—the way, the intensity, and the sincerity with which the measures have been taken is important at this moment. We are fully willing to carry out this meeting."

Castillo Claramount, who reaffirmed his belief and political decision to recognize Esquipulas II as a legal document, said that within the same agreements other complementary efforts can be made, although not through (?similar) documents.

[Castillo] "We do not believe at all that any other document can be produced or any other initiative could in any way nullify, some way weaken, or negatively alter the Esquipulas II document."

In another turn of events, he said international cooperation organizations such as the EEC and the United Nations will present the documents that will allow important economic aid for Central America, provided there is compliance by the five countries in social, political, and economic areas within the democratic scheme.

[Castillo] "This is the aid the Central American peoples need more urgently than ever—simultaneously with the political speech (?describing) democracy efforts, there also should be a growing effort for economic aid to become a reality in Central America, and thus add to this political speech a series of definite results, on social and economic topics, that guarantee improvement in the people's quality of life."

Regarding President Jose Napoleon Duarte's health, Castillo reported that as a result of the second chemotherapy treatment and the way it has been applied, the president will be physically affected, but there have not yet been any major problems.

Regarding the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who will meet tomorrow with Castillo, he said it is not to weaken or destroy the Central American peace agreements.

Foreign Minister Assesses Esquipulas II

PA0908220988 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1215 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Rafael Acevedo Peralta by unidentified reporters; no place or date given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Doctor, yesterday was the first anniversary of the signing of the Esquipulas II document. For many people this document meant that the Nicaraguan Government would be consolidated, while for others it meant that the region would be democratized. What, in your view, did Esquipulas II mean a year ago? What does it mean today?

[Acevedo] It seems to me that a joint evaluation is necessary and the only people capable of making this evaluation are the foreign ministers or the presidents. A meeting is being planned where this evaluation will be made. As far as El Salvador is concerned, however, we are very pleased. I believe we have very successfully achieved our democratic objectives. There is clear proof of this: the FDR wants to take advantage of the opening created by our democratic process because of its broadness. We have complied with the commitments made with regard to amnesty and many other issues. All in all, I believe that El Salvador and the other democracies in Central America should feel pleased even though President Arias, in his zeal for perfection, said the other day that no one had fully complied with the agreements. I believe that in all fairness to our capabilities, we must acknowledge the efforts made by the four democracies. Of course we regret that a year after signing Esquipulas II, Nicaragua is still struggling to comply with the agreement at times and thwarting it at others, especially with regard to democracy.

I believe an appraisal must necessarily come from the four democracies. I believe the four democracies have complied with the agreement to a large extent and that Nicaragua has fallen short. This is my evaluation of the situation. It does not mean that we are not going to continue the effort. The framework exists and we must continue pressing Nicaragua to comply—to make an effort to comply and to alter its course. Very often destiny and its historical ties establish new paths for us. After a year we find ourselves at this difficult juncture. The institutional framework created by Esquipulas II is there, it is present, it has not been erased from the map,

and we must continue the effort because it is what our people want. Our people do not want war. They want peace; they want to see the governments make an effort, and the latest foreign ministers meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz was part of that effort. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Is a meeting of presidents from the four democracies possible without Nicaragua?

[Acevedo] If we are to evaluate Esquipulas II, taking into account the framework created by the Guatemala meeting—that is what I call Secretary Shultz' meeting with the four Central American democracies—the five presidents must sit down together, speak openly, evaluate the agreement after 1 year, and make decisions, as the final paragraph of the Esquipulas II agreement says [words indistinct]. I believe the time has come to make this evaluation at the highest level, but now there is an additional document that requires consideration: Secretary Shultz and the Central American leaders' Guatemala declaration. This document must be presented to Nicaragua to see if, in light of Esquipulas II, Nicaragua can make decisions that will once again demonstrate its political capabilities. We must test Nicaragua's political capabilities and desire to continue with the peace process. Even if Nicaragua does not have the desire, we do. [passage omitted]

Guatemala

Cerezo on Coup; Troop Movements 'Routine'

PA0908212588 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1949 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 9 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Today Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo ruled out the possibility of a new coup d'etat attempt, adding that reports to that effect "are merely part of a cycle of rumors." Cerezo made those statements to ACAN-EFE.

In previous statements to a local radio station, Cerezo asserted that a coup d'etat at this time would be disastrous for the country, because it would have international consequences." [quotation marks as received]

Cerezo added that "there are groups interested in disrupting constitutional order and attaining power through violent means."

Speculation on a possible coup reappeared after it was learned that there were troop movements from the capital city to the country's interior yesterday. Local observers described the troop movements as "unusual," but military authorities said that it was a routine transfer of troops. [passage omitted]

Claudia Arenas, the Presidency's public relations secretary, told ACAN-EFE that the recent troop movement "is part of a security plan to protect the population from common criminals."

The government began to implement a security plan on 8 August, in which the national and Treasury Police and the Army are participating.

Cerezo asserted that "the best thing" that those groups—which he did not identify—interested in "breaking constitutional order" should do "is to wait until the next elections to determine how the election results will be received by the people instead of promoting coups."

President Cerezo said that the Army is aware of its mission to support democracy and that this explains why no violent changes have taken place.

However, he said: "There are those whose political leanings have led them to approach Army members in order to tempt them."

The president said that Army members "have orders to listen to all those who propose that they disrupt constitutional order to enable them to collect the information and then to take legal measures against them." [passage omitted]

Similarly, Cerezo said that there is no knowledge of any plan to provoke a violent change in the country's leadership.

Cerezo asserted that the rumors of a coup d'etat contribute to "price speculation" and that this negatively affects the high cost of living.

Cerezo said: "Those interested in destabilizing the country must wait until the elections (in 1990) and understand that their attitude only harms the public."

URNG: Over 100 Casualties Inflicted on Army

PA0908231188 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 6 Aug 88 pp 36

[Text] The CERIGUA news agency has reported that guerrilla units inflicted 11 casualties on the Guatemalan Army during the past few days in clashes at the foot of Tajumulco Volcano.

According to CERIGUA, the URNG ambushed two Army companies near San Pablo, San Marcos Department, on 1 August, inflicting eight casualties.

CERIGUA added that guerrilla units inflicted three casualites on an Army company at the foot of the volcano on 28 July. The Army was unable to reach the rebels' position.

The news agency also reported heavy clashes between URNG units and Army troops on 29 and 31 July, resulting in 91 Army casualties.

It added that other URNG units seized a stretch of the Acatenango-San Pedro Yepocapa-Chimaltenango highway and clashed with the Army at El Recreo farm.

Finally, the URNG reported that on 1 August the Army bombed farming communities on the banks of the Coyolate River in San Pedro Yepocapa, using A-37B airplanes and helicopters.

Honduras

Foreign Minister on Shultz Visit, Esquipulas

PA1008021688 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1807 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras by Jose Rolando Sarmiento; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Sarmiento] In view of the upcoming visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to Honduras, what are the topics to be discussed? Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras talks to us about this.

[Lopez] It is a follow-up meeting to one that the five Central American foreign ministers held in Guatemala. The U.S. Government wants more information on how we view the situation at a presidential level, and I understand one of the purposes of his visit is to accelerate payment of AID funds.

[Sarmiento] How much money is this in dollars, which will strengthen the national economy?

[Lopez] It is $75 million. There have been some talks held between government and AID officials, but they have not been able to reach an agreement on the payments, which is very important.

[Sarmiento] Foreign Minister, do you think the economy and the Central American crisis will be discussed in the meeting?

[Lopez] Both are important. At a national level, we will discuss the economy issue, and at an international level, we will discuss the security and political situation.

[Sarmiento] In the last Shultz visit to the country, he said AID would make the payments. What has happened?

[Lopez] That is a matter mostly handled by the Finance Ministry, but I understand the payments are linked to some conditions imposed by the World Bank and the IMF.

[Sarmiento] What does the Foreign Ministry think about the statement by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega during the anniversary of the Sandinist revolution—he said Nicaragua is a socialist country?

[Lopez] I do not believe the political definition has any importance at all, when it is national and authentic. The orientation toward a socialist regime—to which I would add the adjectives of totalitarian and repressive plus the association with the Soviet bloc—is very dangerous for democracy. If it were only a poor, underdeveloped socialist country without any military offensive capacity, it would not be dangerous, but when a country of this nature has political and military commitments and ties with the overall strategy of the USSR, then it becomes dangerous for Honduras, at least.

[Sarmiento] Is Esquipulas II a document for the entire area or is it only aimed at countries with internal conflicts?

[Lopez] It was not designed for Honduras. It was designed for countries with civil wars, especially Nicaragua and El Salvador. It was promoted by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who at the beginning said: Esquipulas II, the National Reconciliation Commission, and so forth are not applicable in Costa Rica. This was the same viewpoint shared by Honduras. However, President Arias later said that even though Costa Rica was not compelled to do so, it would go ahead and create the National Reconciliation Commission so no one could say it was not complying. Honduras did the same so at an international level no one could say it was not complying. However, the armed guerrillas, repression, the flow of refugees, armed opposition, and the use of territory is basically a problem of El Salvador and Nicaragua.

We have said it before. We are willing to fulfill our share, but we cannot take on the burden of resolving the Salvadoran and Nicaraguan security problems, because they have guerrillas financed and supported by opposing superpowers. If those kinds of demands are imposed on us, Congress must allocate funds to create security corps and enough military resources to cover both borders for the benefit of both neighboring countries.

[Sarmiento] What can you tell us about the fulfillment or nonfulfillment of the Esquipulas II agreements?

[Lopez] I think there is much disappointment regarding the results that could have been obtained from the Esquipulas II agreements. The disappointment is simply a result of a backward process, especially in Nicaragua. I want to insist on the fact that the Central American problem is not an isolated one. Everyone is aware superpowers are involved in this problem. In this sense, the Soviet presence makes the situation worse. In the internal negotiations between the Nicaraguan Government and the contras, the Sapoa agreements, the two sides agreed to establish seven territorial enclaves, I believe, where the counterrevolution was to be relocated in hopes of reaching a final cease-fire. Unfortunately, the final cease-fire never came, but what did happen was three of the enclaves were established bordering Honduran territory. That was a way to encourage the armed contras to set up on the Honduran border and have access to the Honduran border. Therefore, we cannot be blamed, because in the negotiations with the counterrevolution, they themselves established enclaves bordering Honduras. We have insisted on the fact that this is a

Nicaraguan problem. The problems Nicaragua may have with the United States are bilateral ones, and someone else's burden should not be imposed on us.

[Sarmiento] Honduras is not the only country to have hundreds of thousands of Salvadoran and Nicaraguan refugees in its territory, because Costa Rican President Oscar Arias said publicly in a news conference that his country was suffering from the same situation. In Honduras, we are concerned about the possibility that a fifth column may be introduced, which could be activated any time against our national security. There are thousands of refugees who are even carrying documents as if they were Hondurans.

[Lopez] I heard there were 16,000 illegal immigrants; however, Honduras is concerned about this, which is why Honduras is involved in this problem. Honduras is not playing an active role in this situation; on the contrary, the fact it is playing a passive role results in serious consequences for the country. As you know, the Government and Justice Ministry has said over 400,000 foreigners live in the country, many of them illegally. We are not sure about the effects of the presence in Honduras of nationals from neighboring countries; therefore, one of the basic things Honduras wants—which is why it participates in regional negotiations—is to seek solutions for refugees through the proper channels, which are internal national reconciliation and repatriation of refugees. Some have suggested refugees should be helped out wherever they may be, but this is not the solution. This would only worsen the problem for the refugees and for the host country.

[Sarmiento] There is talk about the Nicaraguan armed contras, but are there also FMLN guerrillas in Honduras causing problems in bordering areas?

[Lopez] The problem of the Salvadoran armed guerrillas is a special one. Six border areas have not been delimited. The area is called Los Bolsones, and that is where the Salvadoran guerrillas try to set up. The patrolling of those areas is limited by a peace treaty; that is, both countries have agreed to maintain a status quo in those areas. Both countries have agreed not to exercise sovereignty over those areas. The Salvadoran guerrillas have taken advantage of this situation.

Nicaragua

Contras Suffer 116 Casualties During Cease-Fire

PA0908230288 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1810 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] The EPS has inflicted 116 casualties on counterrevolutionaries in response to attacks launched against its troops during 4 months of cease-fire.

Captain Emilio Escoto, chief of the EPS 11th Infantry Brigade in Quilali, told Anadir Ismael, our correspondent in the 1st Region, that the contras continue carrying out terrorist actions, such as kidnapping and killing civilians, in violation of the cease-fire. The counterrevolutionaries are also staging various attacks on EPS positions.

The military officer added that EPS troops are ready to respect the cease-fire established by the revolutionary government, but if the mercenaries attack, they will be repelled by EPS troops.

Brief

Soviet Vehicles Arrive

Today a shipment of Soviet vehicles arrived in the port of Corinto for the construction and agricultural sectors. The shipment includes 69 trucks, 57 pickup trucks, and 81 farm tractors. [Summary] [*PA0908221188 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1810 GMT 8 Aug 88*]

Panama

Solis Palma Opens Amphictyonic Congress

PA0908211188 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1609 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, at the opening of the Second Amphictyonic Congress at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live]

[Excerpts] Patriot and undisputed leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]; [applause] members of the FDP high command; ministers of state; Mr Comptroller General; Supreme Court President Magistrate Marisol Reyes de Vasquez; Mr Magistrates of the Supreme Court; Mr Attorney General Carlos Villalaz; Electoral Tribunal President Magistrate Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez; honorable legislators; deputy ministers of state; Panama City Mayor Mrs Jilma Noriega de Jurado; directors and managers of decentralized institutions; honorable members of the diplomatic corps; Mssrs members of the international committee organizing this meeting; Mssrs representatives of the participating countries; special guests; members of the local and foreign press; ladies and gentlemen:

The welcome given today by the Panamanian people and by my government to the distinguished delegations here is very different from the one received by those who were first organizing a meeting of plenipotentiaries of the new Latin American nations after culminating the 1826 Amphictyonic Congress held in Panama City.

The forerunners of Latin American integration had a dream. They saw a possibility and they shared desires and wishes that the process of our nations' development would make them aware of the common destiny forged

by the similarity of the problems of our economic, social, and spiritual development and by the similar identity of the enemies of our nations' development.

The quality of the representations attending this meeting to begin achieving a second Amphictyonic Congress confirms that conditions already exist on the continent to make integration in Latin America not only possible but also so necessary that its postponement would involve a high cost in hardships and sufferings, in political instability and social violence, and in frustrations, despair, and failures.

Indeed, the main motivation of past governments was undoubtedly the common enemy—which were the armies of the Spanish crown in their attempts to recover the imperial domination in the new republics. However, when there are other forms of domination, the common weaknesses of underdevelopment and their causes have made us understand that the main weapons used to subjugate us are our own submissiveness and our own discord. When the chains of the debt, the specter of drugs, and the poison of disinformation undermine the constitutional order of our governments and their institutions, the common enemy becomes obvious to us and seems to dictate to us the agenda for a second Amphictyonic Congress of plenipotentiaries of all the enemy's victims.

The agenda for this meeting includes a variety of specific problems shared by Latin American nations, and I am certain the discussions beginning today will help clarify the way in which events are repeated in every nation and will show not only the similarity of the nature of those problems, but also the causes and the factors hindering or preventing the attainment of effective solutions. [passage omitted]

All our countries must keep our identity as nations, but we must make the unyielding decision to struggle united for the sake of our authentic independence.

As in Western Europe—despite the diversity and individual strength of cultures, the force of national histories, and various levels of development—slowly united, Latin America must enter more determining stages and must join an accelerated unity movement to guarantee our people's prosperity and welfare, because their unfulfilled aspirations are increasingly accumulating repressed emotions.

A few days ago a prestigious U.S. publication stated that this decade is a lost decade for Latin America, because all our countries are impoverished and the real average income is lower than in 1980. Last year, 30 percent of the value of all our exports was paid to commercial banks and international financial institutions to cover the servicing of the foreign debt.

The weight of our dependency, however, is even worse when it reaches the core of our needs or when it affects food production and consumption. Malnutrition, which formerly existed in only some countries or intendencies, expanded and now covers large regions and has slowly become a reality for most of our countries' populations, who increasingly depend on the import of all kinds of products, especially agricultural products.

It is necessary to warn that dependency becomes interference when it is used to impose a foreign political and social model. In the case of Panama, dependency has become part of a political, economic, and financial aggression, which replaces the traditional territorial expansionist war.

The new forms of deceitful tactics repeatedly used against Latin American interests and against the interests of each Latin American nation, and the terrible situation Panama is experiencing today give us the necessary authority to report the export of dreams and ideals and the attempt to divert our people's attention through empty institutional baits, which are completely unconnected with the realities of each of our countries. [passage omitted]

The time has come for us to understand that illusions with false ideals are weapons to restrain the political, economic, and social currents of Latin America, to divert it in fruitless disputes about the degree of perfection of its institutions in the face of standards that only exist in textbooks and in pamphlets containing destabilizing propaganda.

In truth, it is time the world understands each of our countries has its own dream, and those dreams are different than the U.S. dream, just as the dreams of the peoples of Asia, Europe, and the rest of the world are different. It is time for it to be understood that those dreams are as valid and noble as those of Jefferson, Thomas Penn [as heard], and Lincoln, and that they have the same right to exist and to become ideals and goals for all of us. [passage omitted]

The first great Latin American struggle against a foreign empire did not stop to think about the different idiosyncracies or regimes that would subsequently emerge. In this new struggle for a final liberation, let us seek what can unite us in the concerted efforts for Latin American integration and let us not seek what can separate us. All that separates us will be resolved more easily and more rapidly with an integrated Latin America determined to serve all its peoples, who will also be integrated within their unyielding and permanent desire to excel. [passage omitted]

I wish you much success and, above all, much perseverance. When each of you returns to your country, spread the word that in this country, during the battle of Panama against colonialism, a dream again flowered, the other dream of the other Americans—we Americans who have always been neglected. These Americans, more ancient and now more numerous than the others, have decided to build our own destiny, inspired by the legacy

of the liberator. You should spread the good news that at the site of the first American amphictyony, work has begun to lay the groundwork for a second amphictyony to coordinate the integration of all the potentials of greatness in a single force that will be able to end the imposed servitude of our peoples.

On declaring open this great meeting, I will paraphrase Bolivar, stating that we will make them obey us—they who, by betraying our America, oppose our fortunate destiny.

Daniel Ortega Address

PA1008010588 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2232 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Speech by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra at the Second Amphictyonic Congress being held at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live]

[Text] Good afternoon, Latin American brothers. It just so happens our visit to Panama has coincided with your event. This is an excellent opportunity for me to explain Nicaragua's views regarding the current situation. It is an excellent opportunity, because at this very moment, representatives of more than 20 Latin American and Caribbean countries are meeting here to discuss matters of interest for all of us, matters that concern the Caribbean and Latin American peoples. This meeting is good practice; it is necessary and urgent practice in light of the difficult situation Latin America and the Caribbean are confronting.

It is also an important moment because of the signs of hope being given by the Latin American and Caribbean peoples. We find greater and greater agreement between governments with different political ideologies. These governments meet to cope with problems common to all of them, problems that have to do with the sovereignty, self-determination, and independence of our peoples. These problems also have to do with the foreign debt and the unfair U.S. policy toward developing nations. We cannot deny that Latin American and Caribbean countries share a similar situation and have problems and objectives similar to those of African and Asian peoples.

In our Latin American history, Bolivar represents strength. He was the light in the struggle for independence. With his words and actions, Bolivar became an example for all of us. Bolivar was truly an overall citizen; he defended Latin America's interest. This event reminds us of the first Amphictyonic Congress called by Bolivar, and you have gathered here to raise Bolivar's banner once again. Bolivar's dream continues alive despite all the actions the United States may have launched against our America to put an end to that dream. All Bolivar did was interpret the hopes, demands, and dreams of the Caribbean and Latin American peoples. These demands and dreams continue alive.

During his struggle against Yankee intervention in Nicaragua, Sandino followed Bolivar's example and dream. On 20 March 1929, Sandino drafted and released a document entitled: "Plan for the Implementation of Bolivar's Supreme Dream." I am going to read a few paragraphs of this document, because they show us that Bolivar's proposal, reiterated by Sandino, is being reiterated today by the Latin American peoples. Bolivar's proposal was reiterated by Cuba, Nicaragua, Panama, and all the Latin American governments willing to struggle, with firmness and dignity, for independence, self-determination, and sovereignty.

In the first part of his document, Sandino said: We are truly convinced that U.S. capitalism has reached the last stage of its development and has become imperialism; it no longer heeds law and justice, and it disregards the right to independence and the actions to achieve this independence carried out by the Latin American nations—I feel he used the word actions quite accurately. Furthermore, we believe an alliance of our Latin American states is essential to protect this independence against any attempts on the part of the United States or any other foreign power to subjugate us. Today we see that Argentina and the Malvinas are subjected to the interests of an extraregional power. That extraregional power unleashed a war in that area a few years ago.

Sandino also says here, in the first part, that imperialim no longer adheres to legal and judicial theories of law. What is an example of this? While governments such as that of Iran's, which have been catalogued and classified by the Yankee government and by Reagan as a terrorist government that disregards the international legal system and all the rest, are obeying a UN mandate, a UN resolution; in other words, while Iran is respecting international law and Americans are praising Iran's decision, the United States has continued to disrespect international law and the international legal system. It disregards that system, and it does so with respect to any country that dares to take positions that are somewhat independent, not to mention any country that decides to become totally independent from the United States, as Nicaragua has done, or a country that decides to fight for its independence, as Panama is doing.

Thus, the United States is acting in violation of the international juridical system. If the United States has a grievance against Nicaragua, if it has a grievance against Panama, then let it have recourse to international organizations. Let it turn to the United Nations. That is precisely why the United Nations was created after the Second World War: to forestall the use of force and the violent resolution of differences that might crop up, as they have indeed continued to crop up between states and nations.

The United States has typically disregarded the international juridical system. In Nicaragua's case, a resolution has been issued by the International Court of Justice [ICJ]. After all, this is no longer a matter of who is right, whether the

Americans or Nicaragua. When a problem arises between neighbors in a community, in a neighborhood, in a town, if neighbors cannot reach an agreement, they have to go before a judge. Good sense dictates that one must do this to have coexistence among human beings; and one has to accept a judge's ruling. The judge's ruling will always benefit one side to the detriment of the other. In other words, the judge will convict one and absolve the other, because dissenting parties always accuse each other. From neighborhood disputes to disputes among states, there will be mutual accusations.

And what did we do? We invited the U.S. Government to discuss this matter, to take the case before the judge, and the judge that exists for resolving issues between states is called the ICJ. The United States itself has turned to that court on many occasions when its interests have been at stake. On those occasions, it recognized the court's validity and authority, the validity of international law and the United Nations. However, when Nicaragua goes to the ICJ to file a suit against the United States and to accuse the United States, and when the ICJ issues a historic ruling condemning the United States ... [changes thought] The judge has already made a pronouncement.

It is no longer a question of who to believe, whether the Nicaraguan Government or the Yankee government. We have to be governed by certain elementary rules, and the judge has already made a ruling. If the ruling of that court has been accepted by the United States on other occasions, why should it not be accepted now? Then, acting with a haughty disregard for the international legal system, the United States has said quite calmly that it will not adhere to the court's ruling.

And what has this U.S. attitude against the Nicaraguan people meant? Sacrifice and martyrdom. Over 54,000 Nicaraguans have become victims during these almost 8 years of the Reagan administration. There have been over 54,000 Nicaraguan victims of this immoral and unjust war, this dirty war that the United States has launched against Nicaragua, and more than $12.2 billion in direct and indirect losses to our economy. I say over 54,000 victims and over $12.2 billion, because that was our count as of 30 June. From 30 June to date, there have been new victims, new murders in Nicaragua: children, women, youths, mothers murdered by Reagan, who continues to disregard the international juridical system.

He disregards the international juridical system when he wants to, therefore making opportunistic use of the international mechanisms and organizations. That is why I say Sandino's thoughts and worries still exist.

The United States is now acting against Panama because it has something against Panama. We have not given the United States that kind of mandate, nor has the United Nations given it. It has not been given the international right; it is not permitted.

Therefore, if the United States has something against Panama and believes it is right, why—instead of conspiring against the Panamanian people, against the Panama Defense Forces, against the Panamanian Government—why does it not resort to the International Court of Justice? Let it go to the ICJ and accuse Panama, and let Panama go to the ICJ and accuse the United States. I am certain the United States would not agree to resort to the ICJ. Why? Simply because it knows it would again be condemned. No one gives it the right to act as it is acting against Panama.

In another paragraph Sandino said: I am deeply convinced—jumping over a few paragraphs—he said, we were also convinced the U.S. Government would never abandon its impulses to trample Central American sovereignty to accomplish its ambitious plans in that part of our America, plans on which to a great extent the future of U.S. power depends, even if to achieve the plans it would have to destroy a civilization and sacrifice innumerable human lives.

That is what the United States is doing in Central America. Now the United States is worried about democracy. But, what was the truth in Central America before the victory of the revolution in Nicaragua? No civilian government existed in Central America, in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras; there were no civilian governments. [Words indistinct] and Somoza was in Nicaragua, and everything was all right with the United States. Democracy was (?perfect). Costa Rica was the exception in Central America.

Now, after the victory of the revolution, we have new political situations in Central America, but the problems are also there. In El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, there are problems that led the five Central American presidents to sign the Esquipulas agreement on 7 August last year. However, the United States has conspired against that Esquipulas agreement, it has conspired against peace in Central America, and it continues to conspire against peace in Central America.

U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, who was not satisfied with the results of the meeting in Guatemala, is now again visiting the Central American countries, logically with the exception of Nicaragua, to exercise greater pressure to isolate Nicaragua in the Central American region and give the Yankee government pretexts and justifications to continue its war or even invade Nicaragua.

We cannot dismiss the danger of a Yankee invasion in Nicaragua—as we cannot dismiss the danger of a Yankee invasion in Panama. We cannot dismiss the use of any type of terrorist action, because that is how the Yankee rulers have distinguished themselves, particularly Reagan, who for two terms has distinguished himself for making use of terrorism against peoples and states.

The Yankee government ordered the mining of Nicaraguan ports. The Yankee government has conspired to destroy the legitimate Nicaraguan Government. The Yankee government has also conspired against Panama. The Yankee government has conspired to murder political leaders in Nicaragua. It has also conspired to murder political leaders in Panama. It has conspired to murder General Noriega. Everyone knows this, (?thinking) it will solve the situation, which in the final analysis depends on the peoples. The course of any nation depends on its people. The future of Nicaragua, the future of Panama and of other peoples cannot be determined by a U.S. terrorist; it will not be determined by propaganda or by the approval of military funds, or by humanitarian aid for the contras.

The Yankee Congress is over there discussing during these times, right now, whether its members should vote at exactly this time when we are meeting here, or in a few moments, or tomorrow on proposals that are terrorist proposals. They are terrorist proposals, because they disregard the international legal system.

These proposals arise from the campaign of slander, defamation, and lies, which were to create optimal conditions within the U.S. public and to create favorable opinions at the international level that would justify terrorist acts. That is what the U.S. Congress is doing: discussing how to formulate a terrorist policy against Nicaragua, because the Yankee Congress, although it claims to be very democratic, is not about to defend the international juridical system. The just, proper thing for the United States and the U.S. Congress to do at this time, instead of discussing ways to continue supporting the counterrevolution in Nicaragua—that is, conspiring against the Nicaraguan or Panamanian Governments or any other Latin American governments, and they do conspire against many Latin American governments simply because those governments make economic or political proposals—instead of discussing the matter of the funds, if it is truly respectful of international law and democracy, the Yankee Congress should say: Let us adhere to the ICJ ruling.

In this way, it would be strengthening the international legal system. The United States would be setting an example of respect for the United Nations and its methods and organizations. The United States would be redeeming itself in the eyes of the international community, the Nicaraguan people—whom they have harmed so much—and the Latin American community. The truth is that it is our duty to demand this from the Yankee Congress, even though we know that its ears will be shut to this demand.

Sandino said in another paragraph: At the same time, we clearly saw that the silence with which the Latin American governments observed the Central American tragedy implied their tacit approval of the aggressive and insolent U.S. attitude against a large portion of this continent, an aggression that, at the same time, was directed against the collective laws of the Latin American states, of a large portion of this continent.

Thus, this was the concern that Sandino was expressing. I believe it is still relevant, because we indisputably need a more belligerent Latin America, more belligerent both at the popular and the governmental levels. To the extent that the Latin American peoples are more belligerent, governments will naturally become more belligerent as well.

We cannot fail to admit that Latin America has made great progress. I mentioned the existence of the Contadora Group, which was born right here in this land of Omar Torrijos, a group that was supported and promoted by the force of Torrijos' Latin Americanist and Bolivarian thinking. The Contadora and Support Groups are composed of eight Latin American countries that have faced not only Central American problems, demanding a peaceful resolution of conflicts and opposing a military solution, but they have also braced themselves to confront economic problems, such as the foreign debt and trade, which afflict Latin American countries.

We believe that right now when the Esquipulas agreements have entered a period of crisis and when there is great pressure from the United States to destroy that peace plan, it is advisable for the Contadora and Support Groups to take aggressive action. Our specific proposal is that the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission again play a role in the overall Central American peace process. In that way, we would be adding a quantitative and qualitative representation of Latin America to the Central American peace process.

However, this does not please the United States. And will the Honduran Government dare accept this proposal when we know that it is so vulnerable to Yankee pressure? In the meeting we held in Alajuela, Costa Rica, in January or February of this year, we urged that the commission be retained.

We defended that position and noticed the Costa Rican and Guatemalan Governments, meaning Presidents Arias and Cerezo, also favored retaining the international commission. However, the others did not seem equally inclined, particularly the Honduran Government, which acted belligerently and rejected this. Logically, we could not issue a majority communique. The Honduran Government's attitude acted as a veto, but we defended and have continued to defend the international commission's role. The commission is made up of the eight Latin American representatives and the UN and OAS secretaries general.

Consequently, I believe the time has come to renew that Latin American initiative, which could be joined by other governments, such as Ecuador. Panama has to play an belligerent role, because Panama is part of the Latin

American process, and the Contadora Group was created here. Therefore, the Latin American governments must continue to defend Panama's right to participate in the Contadora and Support Groups and the joint Latin American efforts. We cannot give in because... [changes thought] Of course, the Yankees' pressure is tremendous. The Yankees' pressure is not only exerted in the Central American region; it is exerted beyond the Central American region, against the South American countries.

Let us not deceive ourselves! The Yankees exert pressure on the whole world, and they issue threats and use blackmail, which is why we need a belligerent Latin American attitude. It is necessary, today more than ever, for the Latin American people... [corrects himself] for all the Latin American people to don Bolivar's uniform. We must don Bolivar's uniform to defend Latin American interests! Bolivar is still with us, Bolivar is still with us! [repeats himself] [applause]

Sandino issued a document that is quite long; it included 44 basic points. I will read the first two—no, the first three basic points. The document begins thus:

Therefore, the document presented to this high assembly includes solutions to the problems mentioned in the following basic points.

Point No 1: The conference of representatives from the 21 states that compose Latin America declare Bolivar is our own Monroe Doctrine and this, consequently, voids any right that doctrine claims it has to meddle in Latin American states' internal and external policies.

I believe this resolution should be adopted now. All the Latin American governments should adopt this resolution because Reagan has come to defend and impose the Monroe Doctrine. Bush made a speech in Texas last Friday and said the Monroe Doctrine is necessary. Dukakis opposes the Monroe Doctrine, and Dukakis wants the United Nations and the OAS to solve regional conflicts when, in fact, the United States has the authority to do it.

Therefore, we have a U.S. presidential candidate who openly defends the Monroe Doctrine, which was implemented by the current Yankee President with his brutal intervention in Grenada—the doctrine was certainly implemented there—with his brutal aggression against Nicaragua, he is certainly implementing the Monroe Doctrine there; with his brutal aggression against Panama, he is also implementing the Monroe Doctrine there; with his brutal aggression against Cuba, he is certainly implementing the Monroe Doctrine; with the sanctions he has taken the liberty of ordering against Latin American governments in the economic and political sector, he is also implementing the Monroe Doctrine there. Therefore, it is clear the Latin American governments must state their views about this Point No 1, which I believe is still applicable.

Point No 2: The conference of representatives from the 21 states that compose Latin America specifically declares the 21 states that compose continental and insular Latin America have the right to form alliances. Consequently, they have composed a single nationality, which has been called Latin American nationality, thus creating a Latin American citizenship.

Point No 3: The conference of representatives from the 21 states that compose Latin America declare they have agreed to hold periodic conferences, exclusively attended by representatives from the 21 states that compose Latin America, and no other nation or nations will have the right to interfere.

Sandino signed this document in El Chipoton, a hill in the Segovia mountains, Nicaragua, Central America, on 21 March 1929. He signed: Homeland and Liberty. A.C. Sandino. Even though the document is dated 20 March, it began to circulate on 21 March—no, excuse me, on 20 March. El Chipoton, Las Segovias, Nicaragua, Central America, 20 March 1929.

Bolivar's, Sandino's, Marti's, and Torrijos' ideals continue alive today; the ideals of so many other Latin American heroes such as Che and (?O'Higgins) continue alive today. As I said earlier, these moments are truly decisive ones in history. They are decisive because, despite all the atrocities committed by the United States in the past few years—and I am talking about the past 8 years of the Reagan administration because otherwise the list of U.S. atrocities in Latin America and the Caribbean would be too long—despite all the atrocities committed by the United States in the past 8 years, very important changes have taken place in Latin America and the Caribbean. We must consolidate and strengthen these important changes. We must consolidate this opportunity to strengthen Latin American positions.

This effort must necessarily include the defense of the sovereignty, self-determination, and independence of Nicaragua and Panama—the main U.S. targets at this time—in order to mobilize Latin America. It is not in vain that the United States has committed resources, prestige, effort, and all its diabolical talents to conspire to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution and this transformational process under way in Panama, which was initiated by Omar Torrijos. The United States is trying to strike a crushing blow to Nicaragua and Panama, because it hopes in this way to restrain Latin America. Indisputably, a blow against Panama and Nicaragua would be a blow to Latin America.

However, in this regard, one must not lose sight of the fact that, in the final analysis, the Panamanian and Nicaraguan peoples have had enough strength and sufficiently firm leadership to resist the Yankee aggression. Many Latin American governments have been thoroughly intimidated by the Yankee empire's noisy threats. In Nicaragua, Panama, and Cuba there have not only been threats, but all kinds of U.S. terrorist actions.

Yet they have resisted, they have resisted. [repeats himself] We have resisted because these processes of change are directed by a firm leadership, and when there is firm leadership, the people can confront and overcome difficult situations and times.

This is an historic moment, and we Nicaraguans are convinced that the process already under way in Latin America and the Caribbean is irreversible and that there will be no turning back. It is with this vision of the Latin American and Caribbean experience that I wanted to bring to you here at this gathering the greetings of Sandino's people. Thank you very much. [applause]

Ortega Meets With Solis Palma, Noriega

PA1008002888 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Today, during his 22-hour visit to Panama, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega paid an official visit to Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma at the presidential palace. Ortega and his delegation attended lunch at the palace, where they were welcomed by Solis Palma, members of his cabinet, and local political leaders.

The visit served to emphasize the friendly relations between the Nicaraguan and Panamanian peoples and governments. Solis Palma thanked Ortega for Nicaragua's expression of solidarity during Panama's most difficult times.

Ortega had a busy schedule today, which included placing a wreath at General Omar Torrijos Herrera's tomb. Ortega and his companions, the most important of which is Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, later went to the headquarters of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]. As part of his official visit, Ortega met with General Manuel Antonio Noriega and FDP members.

Noriega Denounces Shultz' Latin America Tour

PA0908201388 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1806 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Panama City, 9 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Today General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panamanian Army, said that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' Central American tour, which excluded Nicaragua, is like "the lash of a serpent's tail again the peoples of Latin America."

Noriega made this statement after Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, opened the preparatory meeting of "the Second Amphictyonic Congress" (or Bolivarian Congress), which aims to analyze problems afflicting the hemisphere.

The 50-year-old general, with 25 years of service in the Panamanian Army, avoided answering questions about the 5th anniversary of his attaining that rank and of becoming commander of the Defense Forces, which will be on Friday, 12 August. He also avoided questions about possible retirement. He only said: "Wait until the 12th."

Over the past week, various U.S. media have hinted at the possibility that Noriega will resign his military post and become a presidential candidate on 7 May 1989.

Rumors about his retirement have intensified in the wake of the presence in Panama City since yesterday of Morton Abramowitz, assistant secretary of state for intelligence and research. No official information has been issued.

Several events, including a "resistance parade," to which the general public has been invited, will take place on Friday, 12 August, to mark Noriega's 5th anniversary as general and commander in chief.

Abramowitz' Visit 'Aggression'

PA0908225988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2226 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Panama City, 9 Aug (EFE)—Today General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], said the unannounced visit of Morton Abramowitz, assistant secretary of state for intelligence and research, is "an aggression" and shows "lack of respect."

Interviewed by ACAN-EFE, Noriega said the visit of the U.S. official, who met with opposition leaders, "is part of the aggression, not against Panama but against Latin America, and it represents the lack of respect that the United States only shows toward Latin America because the former uses its force without reason against weaker countries."

A Panamanian military intelligence source told ACAN-EFE that Abramowitz came to "create chaos and terror in the streets of Panama City and Colon, to provoke the resignation of Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, and General Noriega's separation from the FDP command."

Argentina

Details on Alfonsin, CGT's Ubaldini Meeting

PY0908163088 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0149 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Aug (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin has ordered a meeting of the Minimum Salary Council and the updating of family allowances. The president has also promised that public administration employee participation mechanisms and worker-managers collective bargaining boards will continue.

This is stated in a document signed by President Alfonsin, Labor Minister Ideler Tonelli, and CGT [General Confederation of Labor] Secretary General Saul Ubaldini after their meeting tonight at the Olivos residence.

After the 3-hour meeting, Ubaldini said the CGT Directors Council will analyze the possibility of a social truce.

The Directors Council is scheduled to meet at 1000 on 9 August at CGT headquarters to analyze Ubaldini's meeting with the president.

The union leader—wearing a blue suit with stripes—did not deny an eventual postponement of the CGT Central Committee meeting, either. He said: We will decide the issue tomorrow after we evaluate this meeting and the president's answers.

Asked if he was satisfied with the results of the meeting, Ubaldini said: We have been promised things we hope the government will deliver.

Ubaldini talked with reporters at the doors of the Olivos residence. He stressed that President Alfonsin promised to support all agreements reached through collective negotiations in accordance with the laws.

The union leader said he did not come to see the president to ask for salary increases, as stated by some newspapers, but to request that the real purchasing power of salaries not be allowed to drop. He also said he had told the president the CGT was unhappy because it was not asked to participate in the elaboration of the economic plan.

The document signed by the president also states that: the Labor Ministry will keep the communication channels open with the CGT; the anti-inflationary plan was drawn up to save jobs; the sale of shares of public enterprises to the private sector will be approved by Congress; the government will seek fresh financing to continue public works; the government is officially concerned with the situation of public housing and rents; and additional studies will be carried out to democratize labor legislation further.

In the past few days, the several factions that make up the CGT could not agree on the composition of the delegation to accompany Ubaldini; he came alone.

The text of the document that the CGT secretary general read to reporters at the doors of the Olivos residence is as follows:

The secretary general of the CGT discussed with the president the current labor situation, particularly the workers' concern for the consequences of the government's anti-inflationary plan, and analyzed the other agenda items prepared for the occasion.

The president responded as follows:

1. Measures regarding exchange rates and cuts in public spendings are a government responsibility. The consultation with the business community was to help control prices. A similar spirit moves the government to establish a permanent dialogue with the labor movement. For that purpose the Labor Ministry will keep all communications channels open with the CGT.

2. The president stressed that the anti-inflationary plan has been drawn up expressly to save jobs and that there are specific dispositions making it compulsory for businessmen to communicate to the Labor Ministry any changes affecting jobs. This is to allow specific labor unions that will have access to the information to defend those jobs.

3. The president stated that the economic measures have the purpose of maintaining, and even increasing, the purchasing power of salaries, and he stressed that workers are already protected by the free collective bargaining system in the private sector and the restricted system in the public sector. The president also confirmed that the government will respect the law ratifying ILO Agreement 154. As for pensions, the president said the government will respect current dispositions in effect.

4. The president instructed the labor minister to convene the Minimum Salary Council this week.

5. The president also instructed the labor minister to bring family allowances up to date.

6. The president promised to maintain the employee-participation mechanisms in the central administration and public enterprises.

7. Any agreement between public enterprises and the private sector will require the approval of Congress.

8. The president said it is government policy to continue the construction of public works with fresh national and international financing.

9. The president will study the financing of housing projects. The decision will be announced by the Labor Ministry, which is the department concerned with maintaining those projects. The president also agreed that rents are a matter of concern, and he said he will closely monitor the agreement with representatives of real estate companies.

10. The president instructed the labor minister to work with the CGT in a study on how to further democratize current labor legislation. The president also urged the minister to conclude the drafting of regulations to Law No 23,472 on guarantees of labor credits.

Signed: Alfonsin, Tonelli, and Ubaldini.

Alfonsin on CGT Talks, Economic Measures

PY0908181588 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1138 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 9 Aug 9 (NA)—Today President Raul Alfonsin termed as "very pleasant, cordial, and positive" the meeting he had with CGT [General Confederation of Labor] Secretary General Saul Ubaldini, and he stated that the anti-inflation program is again going to place us in position not only to consolidate democracy, but also to program the economy appropriately." [quotation mark as received]

Early this morning just before departing for Quito, Ecuador, from Ezeiza International Airport to participate in the inauguration of President-elect Rodrigo Borja Cevallos, Alfonsin stated that the recent economic measures "are designed not only to stimulate the country's growth, but also to put the brakes on inflation, which will cause an improvement in real salaries."

When the press interviewed him at the airport, the chief of state added that in this way [words indistinct] "those who suffer most, those who earn a salary, especially by the inflationary tax, which we must avoid."

He also said that the government is watching "very closely" the latest price hikes, and he warned that businessmen have not understood the essence of the new economic plan: "They have made a mistake and they are going to regret it."

Regarding the motive for his trip to Ecuador, Alfonsin [words indistinct] in Latin America.

Alfonsin stated that he will take advantage of his trip to Ecuador to "talk with all the chiefs of state that will be there," including Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega and Cuba's Fidel Castro. [passage omitted]

President, Sanguinetti Depart for Ecuador

PY0908115888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1109 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Aug (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin departed at 1022 this morning for Quito, Ecuador, from the Ezeiza International Airport. In Ecuador, Alfonsin will attend the inaugural ceremony of Rodrigo Borja Cevallos, who succeeds Leon Febres-Cordero.

Alfonsin departed for Ecuador with Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti. During his stay in Ecuador, Alfonsin will also hold meetings with several Latin American presidents. He is expected to return to Argentina on 12 August.

Government Willing To Send Observers to Gulf

PY0908190888 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Report by Nestor Esclausero from the Foreign Ministry]

[Excerpt] The government is willing to send two officers of the Armed Forces to participate in a group of 350 military observers that the United Nations plans to send to the Iraq Iran border. This group will verify the cease-fire in the Persian Gulf war.

Today this was confirmed at the Foreign Ministry by very high ranking sources. When these same sources were consulted, they stated that this week UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar will formally make the request to the Argentine ambassador to the United Nations.

However, we must recall that our country has not yet received any formal request. Perez de Cuellar will ask this week for the participation of Argentine military men in this group.

The Congress will not have to approve Argentine participation in this group because it is not a peace-keeping force. [passage omitted]

Navy Chief Negotiating Buying U.S. Helicopters

PY0908182888 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] We would like to report that Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Ramon Arosa is currently in the United States.

Among other things, he is negotiating the purchase of a batch of helicopters that can operate from destroyers.

Bolivia

Bedregal Urges Flexibility on Coca Eradication

PY0908125588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0053 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] La Paz, 8 Aug (EFE)—Today Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal asked Ann Wrobleski, assistant secretary of state for international narcotics matters, to be more flexible in the program to eradicate coca crops, in order to avoid social conflicts with the coca leaf growers.

Wrobleski praised the current government's role in fighting drug trafficking and said the United States will continue to support all activities aimed at putting an end to drug trafficking.

Bolivian Planning Minister Gonzalo Sanchez has told EFE that the United States demands that 70 percent of all hectares planted with coca be eradicated before it reactivates its economic aid to Bolivia.

The Bolivian Government asked the United States to reduce this figure to 50 percent of the producing area, Sanchez explained, in order to avoid social problems with the nearly 30,000 families that grow coca leaves.

Anne Wrobleski arrived in La Paz this morning, together with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, to analyze drug trafficking problems and the reactivation of the Bolivian economy.

The Bolivian Government has recently promulgated a law governing the production and use of coca leaves and other controlled substances, which specifies that 5,000 hectares of coca crops be eradicated a year. There are about 60,000 hectares of coca growing in Bolivia.

This law has been rejected by the peasant organizations and the labor unions, which demand the establishment of an urban infrastructure for the coca growing regions, the payment of indemnification to the coca leaf growers, and guaranteed markets for the products to be planted instead of the coca leaves.

Brazil

'Conspiracy' Against the Constitution Denounced

PY0908191088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1443 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 9 Aug (EFE)—Today Bernardo Cabral, the speaker of the Brazilian Constituent Assembly, complained about a "conspiracy" among certain sectors, including the government and business sectors, which seeks to prevent the Assembly from gathering the necessary quorum and from voting on and approving the new constitution.

"There is a clear and well-defined agreement among those parties interested in obstructing the work of the Constituent Assembly," Cabral said. He added that he believes that the absence of a quorum is being used by some parties to force negotiations on some conflicting topics of the constitutional draft, seeking to delay the adoption of approved measures.

Rio de Janeiro Governor Wellington Moreira Franco expressed his solidarity with Cabral's complaint and warned that the delay in reestablishing the democratic system could lead "the country to institutional instability, restiveness, and unrest."

Socialist leader Leonel Brizola said that "there is a conspiracy to delay the approval of the new constitution and to delay next November's municipal elections." Brizola holds President Sarney and the majority that gave him the 5-year mandate responsible for the delay.

Senator Carlos Chiarelli, president of the Congress Foreign Debt Committee, has said the government is delaying the approval of the new constitution to avoid sending to Congress the details of the agreement which is being negotiated with the international creditors.

Yesterday Deputy Jose Lourenco, government leader in Congress, said: "There will be no quorum without an agreement." Lourenco believes the agreement depends on the elimination of the 6-hour maximum work shift and the preferencial treatment to national companies, both of which are included in the constitutional draft. [passage omitted]

Persian Gulf Cease-Fire Participation Declined

PY1008015788 Rio de Janeiro Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Brazil has declined an invitation to participate in the international committee of military experts who will oversee the cease-fire in the Persian Gulf. Itamaraty spokesman Rui Nogueira said that the Brazilian Government would rather remain outside the Iran-Iraq conflict because Brazil maintains cordial relations with both countries.

Government Pleased With RSA-Angola Accord

PY1008014888 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] The Brazilian Government has expressed its satisfaction regarding the negotiations that will put an end to hostilities between South Africa and Angola.

Itamaraty spokesman Rui Nogueira read the official note released today in Brasilia:

[Begin Nogueira recording] The Brazilian Government was very happy to learn the results of the [words indistinct] talks held in Geneva, which concluded on 5 August and put an end to the hostilities between Angola and South Africa.

The Brazilian Government hopes the cessation of hostilities between the two countries is merely the first step toward a broader peace process in the region. It also hopes all other conflicts that have been causing regional instability can be solved.

Brazil has always supported a swift and just resolution of the South African conflicts, including the Namibian fight for independence. For this reason, it renews its support of the diplomatic efforts being made in favor of the emancipation of Namibian territory in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 435/78. [end recording]

Rui Nogueira also reported that Brazil has decided not to take part in the committee to be created by the United Nations to supervise the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq.

Chile

Merino On 'Civilian' President, Exiles

PY1008020288 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Navy Commander in Chief Admiral Jose Toribio Merino has reiterated that the next president of the Republic will have to assume power as a civilian. Merino made this remark after chairing a regular Government Junta meeting at the Diego Portales building.

Asked whether he preferred a civilian or a military candidate, the Navy commander in chief simply said that the candidate will be nominated in accordance with the procedures established by the laws in force.

The Government Junta member denied that more than 1 million Chileans are currently living in exile, claiming that their numbers do not exceed 230.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Admiral, what is your opinion of the letter Punta Arenas Bishop Tomas Gonzalez sent to the Government Junta? In this letter, the bishop is asking the government not to appoint a candidate for the upcoming plebiscite until it establishes legal mechanisms to allow Chileans living abroad for different reasons, or in exile, to vote in the upcoming plebiscite.

[Merino] You are asking me about Mr Tomas Gonzalez, the bishop of Punta Arenas?

Who is going to pay any attention [words indistinct]? This is completely unimportant. It does not matter at all that the bishop of Punta Arenas is discussing [words indistinct]. We are not paying any attention. Mr Gonzalez has been familiar with the laws in force for many years and he knows who can and cannot vote.

In the first place, it is not correct to say that there are 1 millon Chilean human beings living abroad. Perhaps there are some 300. In total, probably 230. The rest are Chileans who are living abroad [words indistinct]. [end recording]

In its session, the government junta approved six bills.

Government Hails Gulf War Cease-Fire

PY0908184988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Report by Antonio Joffre from the Foreign Ministry]

[Text] Yesterday the Chilean Government has voiced its satisfaction over the announcement that the Governments of Iran and Iraq have agreed to cease fire as of 20 August.

An official communique released by the Chilean Foreign Ministry reads:

The Government of Chile has learned with great satisfaction about the announcement yesterday that the Governments of Iran and Iraq have agreed to cease fire as of 20 August in compliance with UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

The Government of Chile upholds the principle of peaceful solutions to controversies and voices its full support for the efforts of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to end the long and painful conflict that has confronted these two nations. It also voices its hope that this preliminary and significant step will lead to the establishment of a lasting peace in that part of the world.

Columnist Indicted for Offending Prosecutor

PY0908153288 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] The president of the 4th military court has indicted Tomas Buluan, sociologist and columnist of ANALISIS magazine.

Buluan has been charged with offending the Armed Forces. He was arrested by members of the investigative police after charges were filed against him by Attorney General Enrique Ibarra.

The law suit was filed against the journalist because of a commentary in which he offended ad hoc military prosecutor Fernando Torres Silva.

Appellate Court Upholds Journalists' Indictment

PY1008032588 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 2 Aug 88 p C-7

[Text] Yesterday in a 2 to 1 decision, the 3d Appellate Court of Santiago upheld the indictments handed down by trial Judge Jorge Varela Videla against Alberto Gamboa and Francisco Herreros, directors of the newspaper FORTIN MAPOCHO and the magazine CAUCE, respectively, for allegedly violating the state security law.

Judges Efren Araya and Arnoldo Dreyse voted to uphold the indictment, while Judge Carlos Cerda dissented.

Attorney Alberto Rios represented the Interior Ministry at the court.

According to the plaintiff, the aforementioned journalists have been indicted for allegedly violating Article 5 of Law No 18,662, which punishes "those who publish reports on political movements, organizations, and parties that have been declared unconstitutional."

The court heard the case following the appropriate appeals filed by Gamboa and Herreros.

Violations of Article 5 of the aforementioned law are punishable with fines.

The case being heard by Judge Varela Videla was prompted by an indictment recently filed by the Interior Ministry against Gamboa, Herreros, and Marcelo Contreras. Contreras is the director of the magazine APSI and has also been indicted by the judge.

According to attorney Rios, the indictments have been filed as a result of the publication of a paid advertisement of the proscribed PCCh in the aforementioned media.

Radical Party Signs Accord With Argentine UCR

PY1008024688 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 3 Aug 88 p 10

[Text] Yesterday Radical Party [PR] President Enrique Silva Cimma announced that in a recent visit made to Argentina, the PR and the Argentine UCR signed an agreement to improve the democratic system in the two countries.

In a news conference, Silva Cimma said that "through this agreement, both the UCR and the PR of Chile seek to exchange ideas and experiences intended to improve the democratic system in both countries."

The PR president said that the Argentine Radicals will send congressional and party leadership level observers "to watch 'on site' the development of the upcoming plebiscite in Chile."

Among other points, the agreement signed between the PR and the UCR states that "the two parties support the entire Latin American democratization process and that the two parties agree to maintain a continued exchange of information and to conduct actions intended to develop and improve the democratic system in their respective countries, mutually supporting each other with resolute solidarity."

Silva Cimma made it clear that this agreement only "includes political aspects," and that "both the UCR and the PR have a similar democratic calling that makes them view with optimism the democratic future of the Southern Cone countries."

National Vanguard Offices Attacked in Temuco

PY1008021088 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 31 Jul 88 p C-7

[Text] Rancagua—The National Vanguard offices in this city were attacked on 29 July at 2220. Unidentified individuals detonated a bomb that damaged the windows of the National Vanguard offices and those of the neighboring houses.

Ecuador

Fidel Castro Arrives To Attend Inauguration

Accorded Military Honors

FL0908170988 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Today Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, arrived in Quito, Ecuador, to take part in the inauguration of President-Elect Rodrigo Borja Cevallos. The top leader of the Cuban revolution was welcomed on the tarmac of the Ecuadoran Air Force's Mariscal Sucre airport by President Leon Febres-Cordero. Fidel was accorded military honors in keeping with his position and received the protocol greetings of the Ecuadoran Cabinet, military and civilian authorities, and the diplomatic corps accredited to Quito.

This is the second time the Cuban chief of state has visited Ecuador. [passage omitted]

Febres-Cordero Speech

PA0908164188 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1525 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Welcoming speech by President Leon Febres-Cordero for President Fidel Castro upon his arrival; at an Ecuadoran Air Force base near Mariscal Sucre International Airport in Quito on 9 August—recorded]

[Text] Your Excellency, President of the Council of Ministers of Cuba:

With deep and sincere emotion, I welcome you to Ecuador—the halfway point of the world—Mr President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba. I also wish to greet the members of your entourage. I sincerely hope you have a pleasant stay in my country.

The sincere friendship between the Cuban and Ecuadoran peoples is not recent. On the contrary, it goes back many decades, and it [words indistinct] that are crucial in regard to our respective histories. However, it is obvious, Mr President, that the ties of friendship, affection, and understanding between our two nations have been strengthened over the past few years. First of all, my visit to Cuba and then the study of practical methods of cooperation to serve the superior cause of development, and the assistance given—such as Cuban assistance in fighting a dangerous epidemic that appeared in the tropical zone of my country—have had a significant effect on the fraternal friendship I have mentioned.

Therefore, I appreciate, in a very special way, your participation in an event that has a significant meaning and illustrates active democracy at work in Ecuador. I want to express my best wishes so that, within an atmosphere of mutual respect and eternal support for the basic principles of sound international relations, the links established between the Cuban and the Ecuadoran peoples become stronger and will result in unprecedented progress and well-being for the corresponding national communities.

Welcome, Commander.

Castro Responds

PA0908172088 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1517 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Statement by President Fidel Castro upon arrival in response to a welcoming speech by President Leon Febres-Cordero; at an Ecuadoran Air Force base near the Mariscal Sucre International Airport in Quito—live]

[Text] Most Distinguished President of Ecuador, (?representatives) of Ecuador, soldiers and officers, [word indistinct] of ceremony, Ecuadoreans: I must confess that I felt a profound emotion as I was approaching this brother country and this [words indistinct] are unforgettable [words indistinct] who have written brilliant pages in its history and reminded us of our own history as a small country. Ecuadoreans were forced to display heroism to win freedom and independence. It is also especially pleasing for me to be able to reciprocate a visit to our country by President Febres-Cordero.

He recalled the historical ties between our two peoples. There are many ties. Ecuadoreans fought for our independence, and Cubans had the honor and privilege of participating in the struggles of the Ecuadoran people.

The ties between our two peoples date back a long time. We could say more than 150 years. The president mentioned our current relations. I believe that Ecuadoran-Cuban relations honor our two countries. They represent an example of the Latin American spirit of integration. These relations are evidence of independence for those who dislike seeing us so united. We are very honored to maintain the relations we have with Ecuador and our friendship with the Ecuadoran people. There is nothing that we would not do in support of our solidarity and friendship.

The president kindly mentioned Cuba's assistance in regard to certain problems in Ecuador, such as an epidemic in the tropical area. We have some experience in this regard because we also live in the tropics. He has said in the past: We must live with the aedes egyptis, which is the famous mosquito that transmits dengue and yellow fever. In fact, Cuban Carlos Finlay had the honor of being the discoverer of the transmitting agent of this disease, an honor that others tried to deny him after he dedicated an entire life to research and to this discovery, which has been so useful to humanity.

We have some experience in this area, but I do not think that we even deserve a thank you because we really view this as a basic duty. I wish we could do a lot more, and I also hope that you will be able to do a lot more for my country.

We have come here at this very important moment. We could say, at a moment when institutions are being established and the Constitution of Ecuador [20-second interruption by announcer].

It would be difficult to describe a landscape more beautiful than this one. It would be difficult to describe a bluer and more beautiful sky. This is the sky of independence, of liberty. It is the sky of the glory won by the heroism of the Ecuadoreans. Thank you very much. [applause]

Havana Version of Response

FL1008021788 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Statement by President Fidel Castro upon arrival in response to a welcoming speech by President Leon Febres-Cordero; at an Ecuadorean Air Force base near the Mariscal Sucre International Airport in Quito on 9 August—recorded]

[Text] Ecuadoreans: I must confess that I felt a profound emotion as I was approaching this brother country and this lengendary city of Quito. The emotions felt by a visitor, as seen from the air, are unforgettable: the mountains, volcanoes, valleys, and the cities. For me, it

was of special significance the fact that I was approaching a historic city, more than historic, a prehistoric city, as I was approaching a heroic, courageous nation which has written brilliant pages in its history and reminded us of our own history.

The ties between our two peoples date back a long time. We could say more than 150 years. The president mentioned our current relations. I believe that Ecuadoran-Cuban relations honor our two countries. They represent an example of the Latin American spirit of integration. These relations are evidence of independence for those who dislike seeing us so united. We are very honored to maintain the relations we have with Ecuador and our friendship with the Ecuadoran people. There is nothing that we would not do in support of our solidarity and friendship.

I have just arrived; however, I know that there is still much excitement that awaits me. It would be difficult to describe a landscape more beautiful than this one. It would be difficult to describe a bluer and more beautiful sky. This is the sky of independence, of liberty. It is the sky of the glory won by the heroism of the Ecuadoreans. Thank you very much. [applause]

Havana on Castro Activities

PA1008032588 Havana International Service in Spanish 2350 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Report by Pedro Martinez Pirez from Quito, Ecuador—live]

[Excerpts] Good evening, Radio Havana listeners. Greetings from Quito, Ecuador. Today, 9 August, has been quite a day here. Many heads of state have arrived here today. Since the Cuban president's arrival in Quito, he has had a full schedule. President Castro placed wreaths at Sucre's grave at Metropolitan Cathedral and at the monument to honor Ecuadoran heroes at Independence Square. During his tour of the old sector of Quito, President Castro was constantly surrounded by people carrying Cuban flags and shouting: Long live Fidel! and Long live Cuba! It was truly amazing how the Ecuadoran people expressed their love for the Cuban revolution and for Fidel Castro.

This afternoon President Fidel Castro paid a visit to Portuguese President Mario Soares at his residence. He also visited the Guayasamin Foundation and many prominent visitors, such as French President Francois Mitterrand's wife, Salvador Allende's widow, members of delegations who are in Ecuador to attend the swearing in ceremony, and reporters.

While at the Guayasamin Foundation, President Fidel Castro was approached by reporters and he gave them an impromptu and short news conference. During the news conference, the head of the Cuban revolution talked about everything. He talked about the problems in Africa and his views regarding the South African situation. He also talked about Latin America and said he can see the democratic process in Latin America is advancing and consolidating. [passage omitted]

Tonight, President Fidel Castro will have a private dinner with outgoing Ecuadoran President Leon Febres-Cordero. [passage omitted]

Further on Activities

FL1008025188 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2307 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Report by "Exclusivo" correspondent Orlando Contreras in Quito]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] As soon as Fidel arrived at his residence, he decided to visit the mausoleum of the marshal of Ayacucho, Antonio Jose de Sucre, which is inside the Cathedral of Quito in an apse. Fidel placed a flower wreath there.

He then crossed on foot to Independence Park where he placed a floral wreath before the Monument to the Heroes. Throughout all these activities, Fidel was (?acclaimed) by the people. He also spoke with the people, including two nuns who were among the crowd. [passage omitted]

Costa Rica's Arias Makes Arrival Statement

PA0908223288 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2052 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Statement by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias upon arrival; at Mariscal Sucre International Airport in Quito—live]

[Text] Your Excellency, Mr Foreign Minister: In the name of the people and Government of Costa Rica, I want to salute the government of His Excellency President Leon Febres-Cordero and the Ecuadoran people. Our presence here is in response to the wish of the Costa Rican Government and people to express our happiness and pride for the transfer of power that consolidates Ecuadoran democracy, giving the rest of our Latin America an example that it is necessary for Latin American peoples to be allowed to always enjoy the democracy that has cost us so much to attain in our area.

We wish show all of Latin America through our visit, with our presence here—coming from a small country, small in territory and population, but big because of the values we have held for many years: democracy, liberty, and peace—that there is no other road for our peoples than the road that leads the inhabitants of all Latin America to the possibility of enjoying this democracy, liberty, and peace they so much yearn for and deserve.

I am moved, happy, and proud of being in this beautiful sister country of Ecuador. Thank you.

Febres-Cordero Welcomes President Barco

PA1008151388 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 1344 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Statement by President Leon Febres-Cordero upon arrival of Colombian President Virgilio Barco; at an Ecuadoran Air Force base near the Mariscal Sucre International Airport in Quito—live]

[Text] Your Excellency Colombian President Barco: The Ecuadoran Government and people happily and fervently welcome you, a great friend of Ecuador, as well as the members of your distinguished delegation.

Geographical and historical realities, economic developments, and our cultural heritage have always united our two nations with friendly, firm, and clear ties. Those ties transcend words and become a vibrant, everyday experience.

Your generosity and solidarity strengthened the fraternal relations between our countries at a moment of serious pain and sadness for my country. Immediately after the devastating earthquake in northeastern Ecuador in March 1987, Colombia helped more than just the quake's victims. With an action Ecuadorans will never forget, Colombia proved that unity goes beyond rhetoric and that it can and must be a decisive means of cooperation and encouragement for true development.

[Words indistinct] a part of the oil pipeline that goes to the Colombian main oil pipeline and decided that Ecuador could use the fuel it needed for its economy. That action engraved your name, Mr President, in the grateful heart of all Ecuadorans with indelible [word indistinct] of affection.

Now that you have come to participate in this legal, civilian ceremony that testifies to the strength of Ecuadoran democracy, your visit is enthusiastically acclaimed by all Ecuadoreans, who wish you a pleasant stay and wish you and your noble people prosperity.

Barco Responds

PA1008145188 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 1348 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Statement by President Virgilio Barco upon his arrival; at an Ecuadoran Air Force base near the Mariscal Sucre International Airport in Quito—live]

[Text] I send warm greetings to the Ecuadoran people. My visit to Quito is a result of the traditional brotherhood that has united our two nations. We have a mutual desire for meetings that allow us to implement plans and programs for the benefit of our development and progress.

Ecuador and Colombia are not only united by a geographical border. We also share a common history and a similar heritage. In addition, both nations identify themselves with principles that we follow closely because we believe that they are the best way to fight against the problems we are facing.

As you pointed out, President Febres-Cordero, we recently implemented some highly important cooperation agreements. On 8 May 1987, I visited your country. I went to Lago Agrio to inaugurate our trans-Andean oil pipeline, which began pumping between (?35,000) to 50,000 barrels of Ecuadoran oil daily through the Colombian pipeline.

In addition, our two nations share many ideals. We believe a democratic government is the most appropriate way to achieve greater social justice. [Words indistinct] that participation [words indistinct] in a pluralist framework is the best mechanism to allow the needy and the weak to struggle for their fair interests and the fulfillment of their basic needs.

Drawing near the end of the 1980's, Latin American democracies are experiencing their most [word indistinct], not only because we are holding on to those ideals, but also because most Latin Americans live under free, civilian, and democratically elected political systems.

The problems that affect Latin America will only be resolved through the [word indistinct] among all countries. I want to say that drug trafficking, terrorism, and poverty are obstacles that hinder the construction of solid and stable democracies. Our mutual battle is to fight against those obstacles.

Mr President Febres-Cordero, on behalf of the Colombian people, I thank you for the welcome and extend a friendly greeting to you. I am pleased to reiterate that Ecuador has been consolidating its democracy, which is the goal you have successfully committed yourself to. I am sure the noble Ecuadoran people understand that and have benefited from your commitment.

Paraguay

Further on Police-Protester Clash After Mass

PY0908151688 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 8 Aug 88 p 11

[Text] The religious procession that silently marched along Asuncion downtown streets in the afternoon of 6 August ended in front of Asuncion Cathedral with long applause and the thunder of 40,000 voices singing the hymn "We, Paraguayans, love God...." The procession was organized by the Asuncion Archdiocese to celebrate the Virgin of Asuncion festivities and to protest against recent events that have affected the local church.

Events after the procession—including Msgr Ismael Rolon's moving words, Father Americo Ferreira's applauded speech, and the incidents afterward in which several people were injured and beaten—constituted an important religious demonstration for the public to appreciate.

The procession, which started at the San Roque Gonzalez Parish, followed the image of the Virgin of Asuncion and a banner that read: "The Truth Will Make You Free." Father Benito Paz told the crowd in front of the cathedral: "The church, the Virgin, and your brothers call for the return of Father de la Vega."

Welcoming the faithful, Msgr Rolon told them: "I congratulate you and admire your attitude because you have accepted our invitation to follow the sacred image of the Virgin Mary in a silent but eloquent procession, despite the reigning fear, indifference, and political fanaticism."

"Nothing or no one will be able to stop the church in its evangelical mission. The latest incidents have strengthened our church instead of weakening it," he said. Msgr Rolon added: "Many years ago, our church left the shelter of its temple walls."

During the homily, Father Americo Ferreira said: "It must be made clear that the church is not being persecuted by the state. It is being persecuted by the government, which we should not confuse with the state." He added: We believe the church is one body with Christ. "If the church's most humble members are beaten, its most important members are also beaten. The church is being beaten in its Indians, in its peasants, in its workers, and, lately, in its priests; therefore, it is being beaten in its head. The pope, the bishops, Christ, the entire church are being beaten and persecuted."

The crowd, which the archdiocese estimated at 40,000 people, applauded several passages of the homily.

Incidents with the police started when the mass ended. Several people were hurt and injured. The archbishop had to plead with policemen to allow the people, who were practically cornered on the front lawn of the cathedral, to leave. During the mass, many policemen in civilian clothes were posted in front of the altar and paid no heed to the priest's request to leave.

It was learned later that at least four people were taken to the hospital following the incidents with the police. Noteworthy was the attitude of the servers [members of a youth organization created to assist the public during the visit of John Paul II to Paraguay] who, when the incidents started, linked their arms to form a cordon between the policemen and the people who were trapped on the cathedral lawn.

Febreristas Comment

PY0908154588 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 9 Aug 88 p 10

[Text] The Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF] has issued a communique on the incidents that occurred in front of the cathedral during the Procession of Silence.

The PRF communique states that the church "again has witnessed the unusual violence used by police forces against peaceful citizens who answered the call of the church."

It adds that the religious procession was very orderly, under the control of its organizers, and without any disorders. The communique states: "The fact that dozens of people were beaten during a peaceful march causes indignation and tarnishes the honor of the fatherland."

The PRF states that the unusual police deployment and the cordoning off of the cathedral's courtyard were among the factors that "incited the people to protest. However, there was never any sign of violence in this protest." The communique adds: "The Paraguayan people have the right to achieve democracy in their country."

Uruguay

First PRC Ambassador Presents Credentials

PY0908152288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0319 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Montevideo, 8 Aug (EFE)—Today Uruguay and the PRC made their diplomatic relations official when Yang Yuqiang presented his credentials to President Julio Maria Sanguinetti. Yang Yuqiang is the first PRC ambassador to be accredited to Montevideo.

After the ceremony, the diplomat stated during a news conference that Uruguay and the PRC have "many points in common" and that "very good bases for future cooperation" have been set.

Yang Yuqiang added that "in the 6 months since diplomatic relations were established, the exchange of trade has increased a lot."

The ambassador stated that the PRC's basic purchases from Uruguay are wool, soybeans, and fish, and that imports this year amount to $60 million.

Montevideo and Beijing established diplomatic relations on 3 February 1988 for the first time since 1949, when the PRC was created.

On that day at the United Nations the two countries signed three cooperation treaties—on culture ,trade, and technology.

Beijing, after being recognized by Uruguay, which had previously broken relations with Taiwan, promised to increase its imports up to a total of $150 million per year during the next 5 years.

Uruguay's exports to the PRC increased from $12.165 million in 1983 to $40.369 million in 1987.